

of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issues raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, **Federal Register** notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

A **Federal Register** notice was published on June 2, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 105) Page 29736 to announce the public meeting dates and comment period schedules.

Dated: July 25, 1997.

Lee Delaney,
Area Manager.

[FR Doc. 97-20139 Filed 7-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Soledad Mountain Project, CA

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the County of Kern, State of California are extending the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Soledad Mountain Project, a proposed gold mining operation on public and private lands in Kern County, California.

DATES: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement must

be postmarked no later than August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Resource Area, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California, 93555, Attention: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmed Mohsen—EIS Coordinator (760) 385-5421.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Public meetings were held on: June 24 and June 25 at Rosamond and Mojave, California.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Draft EIR/EIS is to present BLM and Kern County's comparative analysis of the impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives on the physical, biological, social and economic resources of the area. The Proposed Action is a mining proposal to extract minerals from the subsurface, process the ore using chemical leaching methods and place the waste rock adjacent to the processing and mining areas. Alternatives to the Proposed Action include variations on the duration of operations and placement of waste rock. After careful consideration of the impacts of the Proposed Action and all the alternatives, BLM has identified a Preferred Action in response to regulatory requirements, issued raised, resources present, impact analysis results and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.

A public scoping process was initiated by the BLM and Kern County to identify issues and concerns relating to the proposed mining operation and assist the lead agencies in formulating alternatives to the Proposed Action. The scoping process was designed to provide an opportunity for receipt of verbal and written comments from the public, organizations and government agencies. This was achieved through two public meetings, newspaper publications, federal register notice and notice of preparation of an EIR/EIS. Project description, resource inventories and public meeting proceedings were made available on the world wide web. Site can be reached with the following address: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/GoldenQueen>.

The project area includes approximately 1,690 acres of which 1,219 acres are privately owned land and 471 acres are unpatented mining claims on public lands administered by the BLM. The proposed surface disturbance is 930 acres of which 735 acres are on private land and 195 acres are on public land.

Five alternatives to the Proposed Action are analyzed in detail: (1) No

Action, (2) Increased Mining and Processing Rate, (3) Decreased Mining and Processing Rate, (4) Reduced Project Size, and (5) Partial Backfilling.

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Lee Delaney,
Resource Area Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-010-1220-00]

Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Meeting of the Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (sec. 309), the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council for the Bakersfield District will meet in Bridgeport, California.

DATES: August 15-16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Bridgeport Elementary School, 205 Kingsley Street.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 12 member Bakersfield Resource Advisory Council is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. The Council will meet on Friday and Saturday, August 15-16, 1997, beginning at 8:00 a.m. both days. Agenda items include election of officers, a plan to set priorities for the expenditure of range improvement funds, an update on the proposal to trade federal oil leases for the Headwaters forest, a discussion of RS-2477 rights of way, reports on the role of fire in native plant and deer herd management, an update on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Healthy Rangelands initiative, and an update on the status of proposed recreation fees for BLM lands. There will be a field trip Friday afternoon to Bodie State Historic Park. A public